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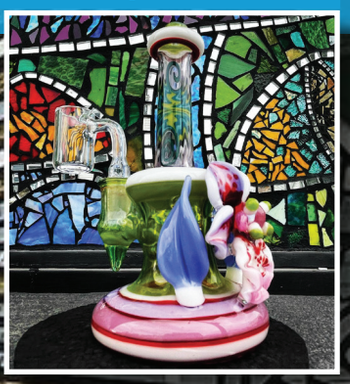

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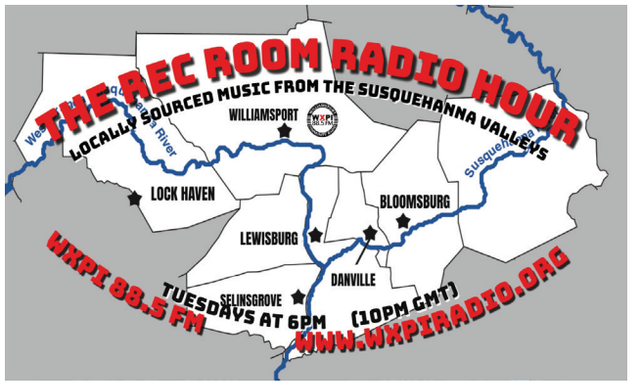
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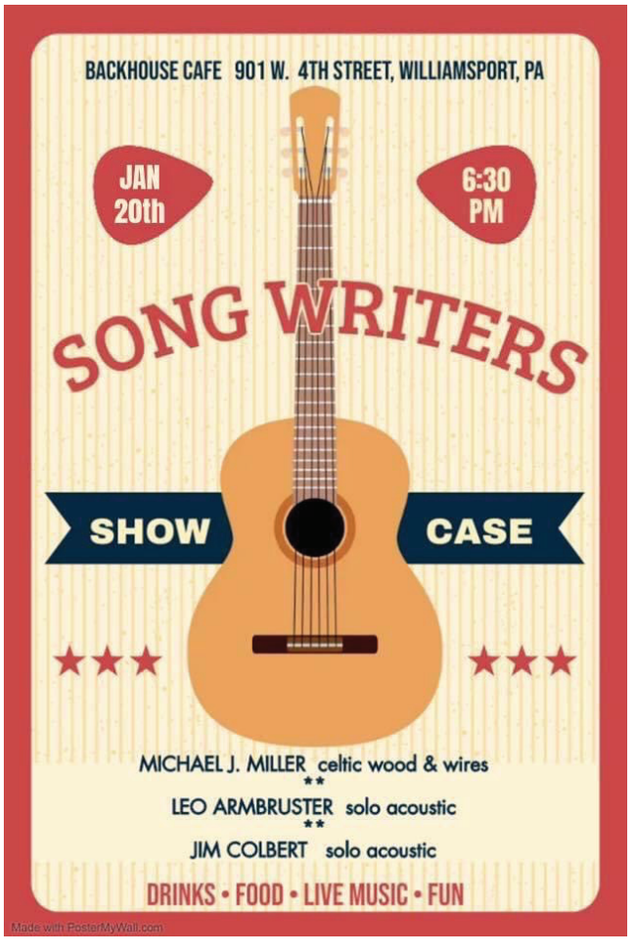
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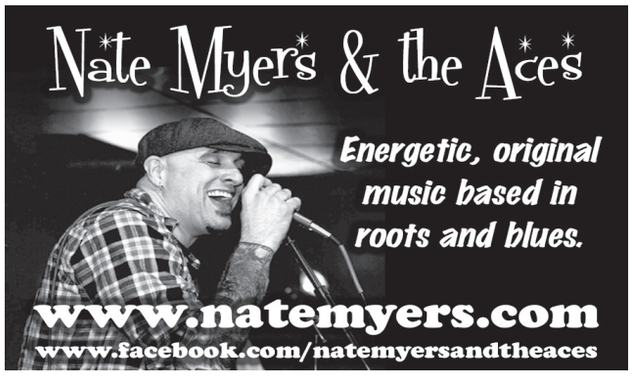
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Founder- "Whitey" Lee Noll

Consulting Editor/Angel of design-Robin Noll

Owner/Publisher/Editor/Sales-Joshua Noll

Lead writer/Photographer/Sales- "Rachel Rocks"

-Staff Photographers-
Jim Price, Rachel Rocks, Meredith Kaminek
Chris Rider

-MOFO (Master Of Financial Operations)-
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Robin Noll, Josh Noll, Rachel Rocks, Jim Price, Keith Hummel, "Space", Deanne Trio, Randy Wilson, Shawn Kurey, Fuzz McGirk, Jimi Jaymz, Dan Mccorkle, Zac Grace, Imelda Redding, Jeff Pittinger, Sterling Koch,
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Editor Ramblings By Josh Noll

Bam! Welcome to the year two thousand and twenty three, the start of the next chapter in life. The start of another year of music in central PA and beyond. The holidays are over, time to make some changes and tackle the new year. Let's face it, we all just want to tackle the couch and binge watch some bad TV shows. I'm still in holiday mode and pajamas are fun. Anyway here are some upcoming events in your local area to help break the couch effect and return to life.

Unless you have been living under a rock along the backroads of PA, then you already know that LoveDrafts Brewing Company, on the Carlisle Pike, has been bringing in some killer shows. 2023 is shaping up to be an even bigger year for them. Working with Nick, from 717 Entertainment, they have stacked January full of music. Starting off with Tom Morse on the 12th, an original member of H2O and current guitarist for The Offspring along with special guests The Riot, Burden of Guilt, and Trading the Inside. Look out on the 15th 'cause heavy hitters Eternal Frequency along with Ignite the Fire, Audience of Rain, and Elsewhere will be rocking the stage. They don't stop there! Jimmie's Chicken Shack will be headlining on the 28th backed up by a plethora of talented bands, too many to list in this space. Sunday the 29th is The Family Values Festival Tribute show, all your favorite 90's music performed by local tribute bands. If that is not enough then wait till February as Soulfly is coming to town. Check out the ad in this issue for all the details on the shows and be sure to scan the code and get your tickets now.

Reverb in Reading can help keep you warm this winter. Sheer Terror awaits you on the 17th with Chisel and Wisdom in Chains. On the 27th its Obey Your Master, you guessed it Metallica Tribute band. Speaking of Metallica I would like to say that even though "Lux AEterna "(Latin for "eternal light") is not anything close to the olden days of Metallica. I did find myself singing it the rest of the day and now probably today. It's a good song I'll just say that. No one liked the black album for years, so who knows give it time. Back to Reverb, check out the back cover and see what else they have going on this winter. Amish Outlaws, Thy Art Is Murder, Every Avenue to name a few. Chris and the Reverb crew are always working hard to keep the scene alive so give them some love and catch a show.

XL Live is another reason we have such a great music scene in PA. On the 20th they are dishing out some winter blues with the Gabe Stillman Band. Break out the hair and get your Appetite For Destruction filled with the ultimate Guns N Roses tribute band on the 21st. Circles Around the Sun on the 26th and the Reagan Years on the 27th. Finishing off January with The Dave Matthews Tribute Band on the 28th. For everyone missing out on that Christmas Kix concert, you can now get your funny money out for the 10th of February, as Kix returns to XL Live.

The Fredericksburg Eagle Hotel is under new ownership but never fear live music is still here! It's good to see the new owners continuing the tradition Mike and his crew were known for. Great food and great live music. This month they have Jason Knorr on the 6th, Cody Wiley on the 7th, Beka Jones on the 13th, Addie Grace (an amazing performer) on the 14th, Travis & Nick on the 20th, Nate (the Harmonica Man) Myers & Pete on the 21st. Vaughn Hummel the 27th, finishing off with Ryan Moran on the 28th. I'd say they are keeping the music line up full along with your bellies so get over and support!

Take note that Devon Beck, who spends a great deal of time in Nashville, Tennessee is back in PA performing a number of venues throughout PA including the PA Farm Show. Be sure to check out her schedule and show her some love.

Well that's if for this month. I will say if you're wondering how easy it is to get into the PA Musician Magazine. Let me tell you that during the writing of this article, on the last day before we go to press, I received an email from the band Dead Space 90's asking about how they could advertise. They are now in this issue. With a simple paypal payment and a couple emails they are starting 2023 off right. It really is that easy. GO!! and check them out on facebook give them a like. Check out the webpage deepspace90s.com book a show now. You can catch them live on the 14th at Stoner Grill in Lancaster PA, The Markets at Hanover on February 3rd and again on February 18th at Tellus 360. They are bringing 90's Nostalgia, back to a venue near you. Check out their ad in this issue. If you want to get in on the fun give me a ring at 717-636-4203 or shoot me an email joshnoll@pamusician.net Let's tackle The Year Two Thousand and Twenty Three together as a team. We are here to help you.

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Sat. 1/7: Doyle Hotel
Duncannon, PA 6:30-9:30pm

Fri. 1/13: Fratelli's Towne Tavern,
New Cumberland - 6-9pm

Sat. 1/14: Grandpa's Love Shack
Shermans Dale, PA - 5-7pm

Sun. 1/15: Jen-Jen's Rhythm N'
Brews, East Berlin, PA 4-7pm

Wed. 1/18: SpringGate Arcona
Mechanicsburg, PA - 6-8pm

Fri. 1/20: White Rose Bar & Grill
York, PA - 8-11pm

Sat. 1/21: Hook & Flask Still Works
Carlisle, PA - 7-10pm

Wed. 2/1: Fenderz Grill & Pub
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OUT 'N' ABOUT

By Rachel Rocks

Happy New Year!! Hard to believe this is my first article for 2023 already. 2022 was a crazy year indeed. It's still a little strange out in the great big world, but I'm glad to see venues up and running with packed crowds and even some sold out shows! It's also awesome to see new venues opening, new bands beginning, etc.. One thing for sure is life continues to go on no matter what, and the shows must go on too!

This was a super busy month for me, and I was super sick for 2 weeks, so I really didn't get out nearly as much as usual. But I did sneak out wherever and whenever it was possible. My first big show of the month was the special Xmas at XL Live Show. It was a benefit hosted by 105.7 the X to raise funds for the Salvation Army. When I got there Light the Lamp was just finishing their set. I never saw these guys, but I was instantly hooked with their energy and enthusiasm to get this party started! Who knew Jake Scholl could sing like that! What a surprise! They definitely got the stage warmed up, because as soon as FeltSideOut hit the stage, they were ready to rock, and you could tell it was going to be a crazy night. It had been a while since I saw these guys and I'm so glad I finally caught another show! Observe the 93rd took the stage next and they continued to bring the energy and excitement to the room. Eternal Frequency hit

Light the Lamp photo by Rachel Rocks

the stage with some Trans Siberian Orchestra music, and had Mr. and Mrs. Claus, and a few of their elves on stage helping to spread holiday cheer. They quickly brought the crowd to the front of the room, and really got the dance floor hopping! I unfortunately had to leave before Defiant took the stage, but I already know how awesome they are and I'm sure, without a doubt they crushed it and completed the show with the same energy and craziness that it started with! Overall, it was an amazing night of original music. It was truly awesome to see so many local original bands getting the opportunity to play on such a gorgeous stage at XL Live, and because it was all for such a great cause too, was just the cherry on top!

I had to leave before Defiant played because I wanted to get across the river to Lovedrafts for Number of the Sun's CD Release Party. Number of the Sun released their album "God Lives in the Frequency". It is a full length album comprised of 12 songs. They not only released their CD with their hard copy, but also on all streaming platforms. If you're looking for new music to listen to, search for Number of the Sun. This album was their 2nd release. They played the album in its entirety. All of their songs are great, I'd have to say my favorite is "Illusory" mainly because the harmonies between Dave and Cody. It was a great show and awesome to see the love and support they had from their fans and family!

The following night Matt Jameson Acoustic was asked to play at a private birthday party by our friend Chad, for his wife Krissy. They party was a full night of music; it all started with Carli and Seth, who unfortunately I missed, but we did get there just in time for Matt's set, and we were so glad we made it in time, so he was able to wear his super special Elf/Gingerbread Man costume for his set. It was pretty cool, Chad and Krissy actually gave each artist a special set list of songs for each of them to perform. Some of the songs were completely new for the musicians so it was a

continued on next page

SUICIDE PUPPETS

UPCOMING EVENTS

january 13
the kennel at
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february 25
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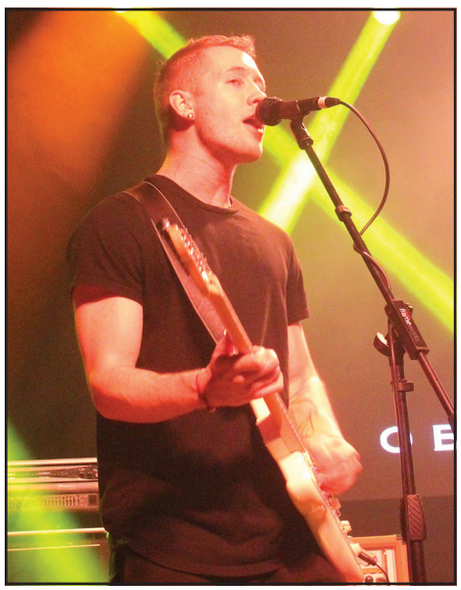
special treat for all of us, and it made them learn new songs too. Matt is up to 95 songs on his song list now. Every show I see he is singing something new! It's awesome when people request songs and get him to learn something he would've never considered on his own. Colton Miller was up next. I never saw Colton before but he's from coal country, and can be seen playing at the Fredericksburg Eagle Hotel, and other venues around the area. Colton handled all of the artists with high range, I couldn't believe the notes he was hitting! He even pulled off "What's Up" by the 4 Non Blondes. Derek Henry took the stage next, and surprised us all by even singing "Hallelujah." It was awesome hearing Derek step out of his comfort zone. The last artist of the night, Chris Johnson, came all the way from Virginia Beach. I thought he looked familiar, and then he announced that

FeltSideOut photo by Rachel Rocks



Observe the 93rd photo by Rachel Rocks

he's also the lead singer for Seven Ten Oil. I saw them years ago at Tubby's playing with Small Town Titans. Chris plays anywhere and everywhere he can! He can cover a wide variety of music, and also plays originals as well. It was a great night of music! Chad and Krissy really know how to throw a party!

Matt Jameson was blessed with another month full of shows. I was able to see a few: One at the HRA on a Thursday, Flinchy's on a Saturday, Fratelli's on a Friday, but a new venue this month was the Falls Hotel in York Haven. Even though this was a smoking venue, the people didn't let that stop them! This was a Tuesday night show, and the place was packed. They are known there for all of their amazing seafood specials. I don't eat seafood, but I was equally as impressed with their burger! Great food at a great price, and they support music! Sounds pretty awesome to me! Matt has had a busy month booking shows like crazy for next year, and he now has his own website, www.mattjamesonacoustic.com where you can keep an eye on all of his upcoming shows. You can also follow him on bandsintown, Facebook, Instagram, he even has a TikTok page! Most importantly, you can also check out his full schedule in this issue! If you want to book Matt for your next show or private party, hit him up online or text or call, 717-497-9011.

I was also able to catch two Thursday night shows for Derek Henry. I'm telling you, weeknight shows are where it's at for me! Derek was back at Sturges Speakeasy. That is a venue that has patrons that love music and it's awesome! So many people were singing along so loudly that you could barely hear Derek! People were definitely tuned in and having a great time! The other Thursday show was Derek's first time at the Doyle Hotel. He jammed out down in the bar area, we all some delicious food, and listened to his music on a super chilly Thursday night! Check out Derek Henry's ad in this issue and check out his schedule, he has a whole list of gigs coming up.

Another super cool show I went to this month was LeadFoot at Underground Live! For those that don't know Underground Live is the old Gullifty's Underground. It is under new ownership, and it's only the "Underground" part that is open, not the upstairs restaurant. He's starting off slow with just a couple shows to get things warmed up, but definitely

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LeadFoot pic by Rachel Rocks

plans to have the place at its full rockin' potential soon! Keep an eye out for a big Grand Opening announcement hopefully early in 2023. It was like reliving old times to see LeadFoot rockin' on that stage! LeadFoot definitely is what their name says, taking the 80's rock full speed ahead with that Pedal to the Metal! Such a great show. Lots of dancing, head banging and an overall good time! I can't wait to see more shows in the Underground Live very soon!

On a Wednesday I went to celebrate my good friend Linda's birthday at Flinchy's. They had the acoustic duo, These Guys, playing. These Guys consists of Dan Newell and Ryan Moody. I'm not used to seeing Dan hold a guitar, but he holds it well. These Guys had a great set lists of the 80s and 90s. The crowd was rowdy and ready to rock, so there was lots of singing along going on. They also had quite the combination of rock and country, and if I heard it correctly, These Guys even pulled off some Taylor Swift! Happy Birthday Linda! Glad she got me out on a Wednesday!

The last weekend of the year, Matt Jameson's birthday extravaganza. After eating way too much food, we headed down to Hook & Flask Still Works for Dave Gates. His mic stand was so excited to see us that it took a dive bomb off the stage. Luckily no one was hurt, and everyone kept singing along like nothing ever happened! Dave has the crazy ability to pull any song up on his laptop and play it for the crowd. I don't know how he can switch from song to song so effortlessly, especially when it's one he hasn't played in a long time, or possibly hasn't played EVER! Pretty crazy stuff.

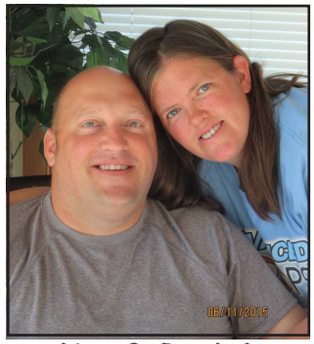
Saturday, New Year's Eve.. I of course ended the year going to Matt Jameson's show at Funk Brewing at Laser Alley's in York. Matt has made huge strides this year, and I know he's only just begun. Kris, Holly, and I had a blast listening to his show and rockin' into the New Year! 2023! Hard to believe!!

That's a wrap for 2022. Thank you to every musician, band, fan, person who has supported me, rocked out with me, or just said Hi! I absolutely love doing what I do. I am so blessed to be touched by so many of you every time I am Out and About! I am definitely a major extrovert! I truly love meeting new people, hearing music constantly, and I am truly always on the GO! I wish I could wrap up my year's adventures in a cool wrap up schpeel.. but that's definitely not my super power. If you want stats like that, talk to Jim Price. His organizational skills, and keeping everybody's name, title, etc. blows my mind! That guy is truly a walking musical encyclopedia!

Matt Jameson pic by Rachel Rocks

Before I go.. I have two super special birthdays in January, my most amazing superbly fantastic sister, Andrea Greene's birthday is January 6th. She's actually heading to my house right now for our first adventure of 2023! I am so truly lucky we love each other as much as we do now, because let me tell ya, we used to have lines in our bedroom made of duct tape to mark our "territory". So if you have kids who fight, know that in the end, they will hopefully love each other as much as we do! Lastly, but definitely not least, my HUBBY, the super amazing, extra supportive man in my life, Kris Boob! There wouldn't be a Rachel "Rocks" if it wasn't for him.. constantly supporting me, encouraging me, and at times, waking me up from the couch to say, "Hey, aren't you going out tonight.." HA! I love him so much.. His birthday is January 8th.

Rachel & Andrea



Kris & Rachel

Oh, and since I have some extra room, I will also announce, that I recently left my amazing job at Bob Ruth Ford, which I still highly suggest to buy from or sell a car to.. So I can start working full time for BRP Entertainment! Don't get overly excited, I am currently just an Admin. Assistant, helping get the details all ironed out. But I will also be covering shows on weekends as needed. I still will be Out and About, taking pics and writing this awesome article every month as time allows.

Thank you all once again for supporting the PA Musician Magazine, and for supporting me! We wouldn't be without all of our amazing supporters like you! If you have a show to suggest, or somewhere you'd like to see me, don't hesitate to reach out, rachelrocks@pamusician.net. And if you see me, please stop me and say Hi!! Get out there and Support Local Music!!! And I heard that we will be getting a new website soon, so make sure and keep an eye on that at www.pamusician.net.

Be sure to call or text Josh at 717-636-4203 by January 20th to be included in the February issue of the Pennsylvania Musician Magazine so you can let people know where you will be.

Number of The Sun
photo by Rachel Rocks

DEEP SPACE 90's
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1/14/23 - Stoner Grill - Lancaster PA
2/3/23 - Markets at Hanover - Hanover PA
2/18/23 - Tellus 360 - Lancaster PA
3/31/23 - Burning Bridge - Wrightsville, PA

NATIONALS

By Eric Hoffman

Greetings 2023 Rockers 'N' Rollers! This month marks 15 years writing for the PA Musician. I am very grateful to the Noll family for all they do year after year. And the chance to write for PA Musician, though I never considered myself a writer, but the Noll family had faith in me. It is a great opportunity to be able to share the world of music in which we love. With winter in full effect thus becomes a slow time for live concerts. However, a few shows did happen in Central PA including two shows from Harrisburg University at XL Live. A very impressive show from England's, Wet Leg, happened on December 2nd to a sold-out crowd. The band's wildly popular debut song 'Chaise Lounge' garnered over 3 million streams in 2021. Wet Leg is nominated for 5 Grammys, including Best New Artist, for the 65th Annual Grammy Awards to be held on February 5th. HU also brought, Bob Moses, a Canadian electronic-duo to XL Live on December 8th. Phantom Power in Millersville brought Local H back to the mid-state on December 3rd. A packed house to see the Illinois grunge band from the 90's. Local H are known for their unorthodox two-piece setup and hit songs, "Bound for the Floor," "High-Fiving MF" and "Half-Life." Comedian, Nikki Glaser, brought her "The Good Girl Tour" to the Hershey Theatre on December 9th. Glaser has had two featured stand-up specials on Netflix. 2022 ended with a phenomenal local show at Lancaster's American Bar and Grill on December 17th. Three of the best bands in the area combined for a great night of rock n roll. Brom Bones, The Super High-Tech Jet Fighters and Timmy's Creepshow all played fantastic sets to a packed room.

NATIONAL NEWS: KIX drummer, Jimmy 'Chocolate' Chalfant, suffered a SCA (Sudden Cardiac Arrest) while performing on stage on November 18th in Leesburg, VA. Kix had just finished playing 'Cold Blood' and were about to play their last song when bassist, Mark Schenker, noticed Chalfant slumped over his drum kit. Guitar tech, Brandon Dull, and Schenker quickly administered CPR bringing Chalfant conscious until medics arrived within minutes. Chalfant issued a statement thanking his bandmates and crew for saving his life, adding "There are no words that can express what it really means to me. THANK YOU!!! I'm healing slowly but surely and I plan to be back and ready to ROCK YOUR FACE OFF in Feb. Until then, go support live music in your area, and TAKE A CPR CLASS!!! Peace & Love, Jimmy."

U2 drummer, Larry Mullen Jr, commented in an interview that if the band plays live in 2023 it will likely be without him, as he needs surgery to continue playing. Mullen has issues with his neck, knees and elbows, physical issues many drummers deal with. "So I'd like to take some time, which I will do to get myself healed. I really miss the audiences. My body is not what it used to be physically." U2's frontman, Bono, hinted the band are to open the new 1.8 billion MSG Sphere arena in Las Vegas in 2023. Bassist, Adam Clayton, doesn't believe the band are faced with making a decision regarding Mullen right now.

Bad Bunny's "World's Hottest Tour" in 2022 is one of the most remarkable tours for any musician ever. His 43-date tour raked in $435.3 million and sold more than 2 million tickets and surpasses Ed Sheeran for the all-time

continued on next page...

Scott Lucas of Local H

Nationals continued....

highest-grossing tour in a calendar year. The 28-year old, Benito Antonio Martinez Ocasio, is the Puerto Rican phenom known as Bad Bunny with the hit single "Titi Me Pregunto." Ed Sheeran's 2018 "Divide Tour" held the previous record at $432.4 million. The success of Bad Bunny is so remarkable that his music cannot simply be categorized, even in a genre as broad as Latin. Live Nation stated, "An unprecedented feat and a remarkable accomplishment on its own, regardless of genre, to see an artist of his age reaching those heights is just something that makes it very promising for us, of what the future holds."

Classic rock legends and Rock & Roll Hall of Fame bands ZZ Top and Lynyrd Skynyrd will co-headline amphitheatres next summer on "The Sharp Dressed Simple Man Tour," launching in July in Florida, and running through Sept. in Camden, New Jersey. Lynyrd Skynyrd, featuring founding member Gary Rossington and vocalist Johnny Van Zant, is approaching the 50th anniversary of the band's critically acclaimed debut album in 2023. Despite ZZ Top losing founding member Dusty Hill last year, the band soldiers on with bassist Elwood Francis. The tour visits Hersheypark Stadium on September 9th.

Bono of U2 has added 8 new NYC dates at the Beacon Theatre throughout April and May. The shows will feature a performance from Bono celebrating his new bestselling book, "Surrender: 40 Songs, One Story." The legendary frontman's book was released on November 1st, each chapter named after a U2 song - the first leg of Bono's book tour took place across 14 cities in North America and Europe, with Bono singing songs and telling stories.

Celebrating her 50th anniversary in entertainment, Janet Jackson will hit the road for a 33-city tour in 2023. The tour, which marks the 25th anniversary of Jackson's "The Velvet Rope" and the 30th anniversary of "Janet," features Ludacris in support. Jackson's "Together Again" tour visits Baltimore's CFG Bank Arena on May 13th. Billy Joel and Stevie Nicks continue to add dates for their 7 stadium shows together, now announcing Philadelphia's Lincoln Financial Field June 16th. Following the success of Def Leppard and Mötley Crüe's stadium tour last summer, the bands are continuing on with their co-headlining dates and will return to North America in August with six new shows including New York and Ohio. The upcoming tour dates see Alice Cooper joining as a special guest. Metallica unveil 'M72 World Tour' dates which will be playing for two nights in different cities across the globe with zero repeats. Each city will feature different sets and opening acts. The tour will see additional performances from Architects, Mammoth WVH, Five Finger Death Punch, Ice Nine Kills, Pantera, Volbeat and Greta Van Fleet. Dates include: August 4th & 6th at MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, NJ. And Hersheypark Stadium has announced The Zac Brown Band for July 1st.

More than two dozen Taylor Swift fans from 13 states filed a lawsuit against Ticketmaster in Los Angeles following the disastrous Verified Fan sale for Swift's upcoming "Eras Tour." The 26 plaintiffs allege violation of California's Cartwright Act and the state's Unfair Competition Law. The suit asks for Ticketmaster and parent Live Nation Entertainment to pay a $2,500 civil penalty for each violation. The suit, alleges fraud and price-fixing on the part of Live Nation, along with antitrust violations.

The 2023 Bud Light Super Bowl Music Fest delivers three-nights of artists including Paramore, Dave Matthews Band, Imagine Dragons and Kane Brown. The festival at Phoenix's Footprint Center is slated for February. 9th-11th, ahead of the Super Bowl on February 12th. The 2022 edition featured Halsey, Machine Gun Kelly, Blake Shelton, Gwen Stefani, Mickey Guyton, Miley Cyrus and Green Day.

Christine McVie, co-lead vocalist and keyboardist for Fleetwood Mac, died on November 30th at the age of 79. The official statement stated, "On behalf of Christine McVie's family, it is with a heavy heart we are informing you of Christine's death. She passed away peacefully at hospital this morning following a short illness. She was in the company of her family." The English musician wrote some of Fleetwood Mac's most beloved songs including "Don't Stop," "Songbird," "You Make Loving Fun" and "Oh Daddy" from 1977's Rumours, along with co-writing "The Chain." Other artists we lost in 2022 include: Ronnie Spector, Meat Loaf, Mark Lanegan (Screaming Trees), Taylor Hawkins (Foo Fighters), Naomi Judd, Andy Fletcher (Depeche Mode), Olivia Newton-John, Coolio, Loretty Lynn, Keith Levene (PiL) and Jerry Lee Lewis.

JANUARY SHOWS: Todd Morse (H20) - Mechanicsburg Lovedrafts Jan 12. Strangelove (Depeche Mode tribute) - Lancaster Tellus360 Jan 22.

Jeffrey Gaines

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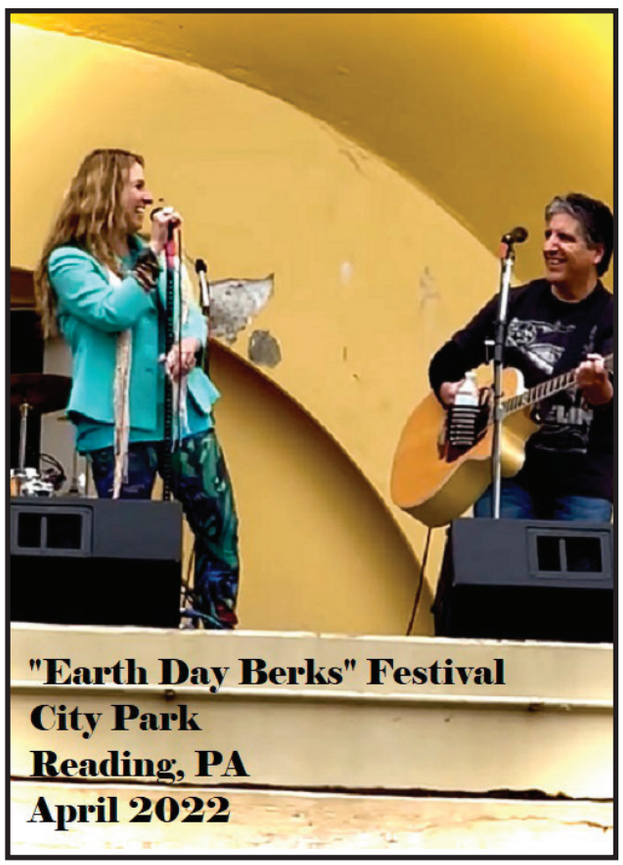
~ Cover photo by Scott Church Photography~

It has been a remarkable year for Gemini. When I met with Missy and Jeff at the end of '21, they were just about to wrap up their first full year; after having met only one month before Covid hit. Their hard work during that time has paid off and 2022 was a big year for Gemini, with more than 40 shows to their name and at many different venues. From their staple of playing favorite local bars and restaurants to private parties and major events, they have done it all. Gemini's success can be credited to their diverse list of songs which includes everything from Alanis Morrisette and Sheryl Crow to John Mellencamp and Red Hot Chili Peppers! They have developed a repertoire from various genres which allows them to adjust their shows to accommodate many diverse audiences. Adding to their skillful rhythm guitar, lead singing and harmonies, Missy also plays the harmonica! It's a treat to find a duo with these special talents. Gemini can mix it up and keep things interesting while staying true to the songs in their diverse arsenal, even as a stripped-down acoustic act. "We want people to know every song we do, even if they haven't heard it in a while", Jeff said. Missy added, "We absolutely love looking out from the stage and seeing people singing along."

In 2022, Gemini covered all the bases. A major highlight for them was being invited to perform at the Berks County Earth Day Celebration, where they took the big stage at Reading's City Park. Missy and Jeff were honored to play on the historic clam shell stage which has been graced by national and world class musical acts over many years. If that wasn't exciting enough: Wait! It gets even better! Putting a big exclamation point on an already fantastic summer, Gemini performed at Delaware's Indian River Inlet for Rehoboth's Labor Day celebration. No ordinary gig, the performance took place on a boat docked on a sand bar in the middle of the inlet! That's right…on a boat docked on a sandbar in the middle of the Chesapeake Bay. Jeff and Missy agree there was nothing like performing their show while surrounded by pontoon party boats with hundreds of people wading around them, waist deep in the water! Both cannot wait to do it again this year!

So, what can you expect to hear at a Gemini show? Well, like I said before, pretty much anything that is recognizable. Missy brings passionate heart and soul into her performance and not only covers more typical female leads like The Cranberries and Fleetwood Mac. She also covers many male fronted songs like Neil Young and U2 and skillfully makes them her own. Add in the harmonica on some other songs and you will be hooked. She was even once humbled (and a bit shocked) when some fans told her they came out mostly to hear her play! Conversely, Jeff's role is to hold down a full-bodied, steady rhythm and to lend his rich, masculine voice as lead and harmony that blends beautifully with Missy and creates a masterful, full sound to the show. Sometimes, it is hard to believe the sound accomplished by these two musicians. Expect to hear Jeff artfully channel Tom Petty and John C. Mellencamp when he performs those favorites. Despite being "an Italian from New Jersey" (as he refers to himself), he pulls off some great country, too. Regardless of who takes the lead, they sound great together and always put on a fun show!

Labor Day Weekend 2022
Indian River Inlet
Rehoboth, DE


"Earth Day Berks" Festival
City Park
Reading, PA
April 2022

So what's the plan for 2023? Well, Gemini is already heavily booked; and they haven't even started! Since playing is their passion, (right next to meeting new audiences), they are hoping they can add some new venues to their schedule and continue to share what they love doing with as many people as they can. So, if they come around in your area, please go and check them out, you won't be disappointed.

Now Booking for 2023: Call 717-507-2299
www.facebook.com/Gemini Acoustic PA

RIDER'S ON THE STORM

By Chris Rider

Happy New Year! I hope you had a great time bringing in 2023, as well as a great Christmas with family, friends and loved ones. Looking back over 2022, and my folders upon folders of photos, I photographed well over 150 bands at about 75 or so different shows all over this area. From solo acoustic acts, to national and even international acts...it's kind of amazing to me. The amount of talent that we have right here, as well as the talent that the promoters and venues bring in to this area, is just awe-inspiring to me. I honestly can't wait to see what 2023 has in store for our music scene.

My first trip out for the month was a local one for me, just down the road to Bucks Valley Winery to see Danielle and Zach play a set. The duo played a few originals as well as a number of covers including Under The Bridge, Zombie, Knocking On Heaven's Door, and Landslide. Danielle brings a beautiful voice to the microphone and is backed up very well by Zach. Add in some good wine and tasty stromboli and it made for a really nice evening.

Next up was a trip down to Hanover at the Black Rose Ballroom for a show that I've been looking forward to for a few months. Starting out the evening was Faith Noel, a young performer that I first photographed about a year ago. Covering songs from Creedence Clearwater Revival, Cage The Elephant, The Goo Goo Dolls, and many

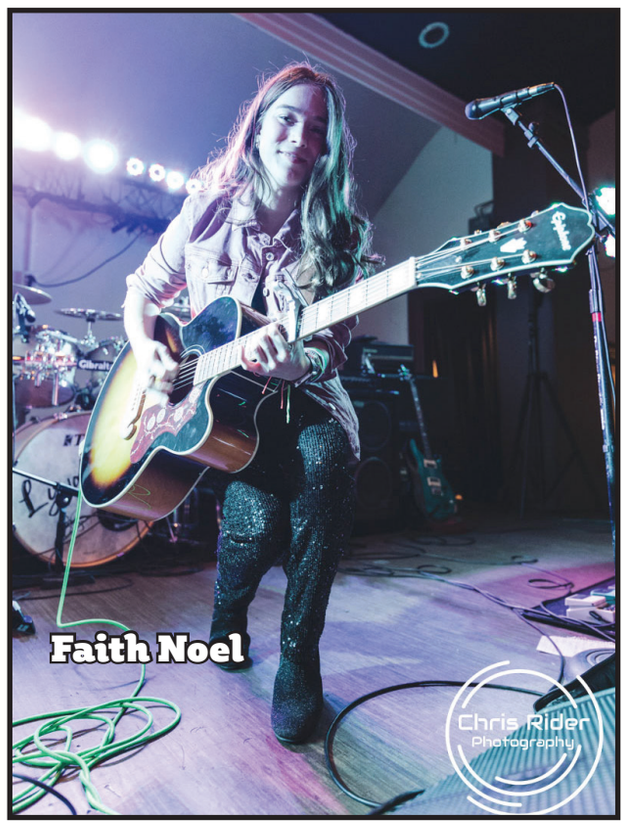
others, Faith put on a great performance with a very wide variety of genres and style. I have to say, in the short time that I have seen her perform (I believe this is my third time seeing her?), I have noticed such a huge improvement and growth in her playing and stage presence. After a brief set-up change, Sugar Hysteria came on to the stage. Due to a last minute change, they ended up playing their set minus a drummer which forced a bit of a different sound to their alternative rock style that I really enjoyed. It was a touch more soulful and heartfelt, somehow giving their all original music a new and different feel that worked very well. Third on the bill for the evening was the Red Lion

based hard rock group Coal. Dal and the guys amped up the volume and the pace a few notches as they rocked the stage with their all original music. These guys have been getting air time on a number of rock stations, including 105.7 TheX and it's not hard to see why. Next up was pop rock/emo four piece band Lyndhurst, coming out of York. Celebrating their debut record release "Between the Here and Everything", Ed and the boys played the record in it's entirety. I'd heard them play a few of these songs live, and heard a few other releases over the last few months or so, but hearing the entire album like this with all of the raw power and emotion was really next level. There's not a song on this album that I don't care for, and a few of them

are truly great songs. Headlining the evening was Brenden Starr, returning to the stage for the first time in a little while. Performing his original songs such as Top Of The World (a personal favorite of mine), as well as a few covers that he does a great job of making his own like Should've Known Better, Brenden ended the evening with a lot of energy for a great crowd. If you want to know more about Brenden, take a look at last month's issue of PA Musician for my full interview with him.

Our next trip was down to The Englewood in Hershey for the Joy to the Burg Holiday Music Showcase, hosted by Glenn Hamilton of The River 97.3. This event

featured artists and bands from the Joy to the Burg albums over the last few years. Performing holiday favorites and some non-holiday favorites, all by local musicians on The Englewood's beautiful stage. Topping all of this off, 100% of the album sales, tickets sales, etc went to support two



winter shelters and outreach to those on the streets through Christian Churches United. Performances this afternoon were: Peter Rogan, Loco Lobo, Tony Wayne, Lil Brother Band, Greg Platzer & Associates, Shea Quinn & The Luv Gods, The Jellybricks (with special appearance by Glenn Hamilton and his daughter Emmalee!) and several appearances by No Last Call. This was a great show to get ready for the upcoming Christmas holiday.

We went back down to The Englewood a few days later to see Crippled But Free's Holiday Extravaganza. A Christmas Grateful Dead show was something I hadn't experienced before, and what an awesome evening it made. As my good friend Travis Bossler put it that evening: "What a great time to be alive..." I couldn't have said it any better. With a loving crowd full of people in front of them, playing songs like They Love Each Other, The Music Never Stopped, I need a Miracle, and a ton of others, these guys put on a great show.

My last show for the month was actually one I didn't have my camera along for. I have to admit, that was a pretty weird feeling for me LOL. I surprised Wendy with tickets to see Trans-Siberian Orchestra at Hershey's

Lil Brother Band

Sugar Hysteria

Lyndhurst

Greg Platzer & Associates

Giant Stadium. Seeing them was a first for both of us, and it was simply unforgettable. The music was incredible, the light show was amazing, and it just made for an incredible experience that I won't soon forget...but look forward to repeating again in the future.

So there it is, my month (and now another year!) of music through my eyes and ears. Just a reminder: if you've got a show coming up that I should see; make sure to send me an invite, shoot me an email or a message, let me know about it. Venues: please don't hesitate to reach out to me as well. The majority of the shows that I go and shoot I find out about through invites from all of you or your friends. Hit me up on facebook: @chrisriderphotography or email: chrisriderphotography@gmail.com, stop me if you see me out & around and say hi. Until next month... go find some live music and give them and the venue your support, they truly need it more now than they ever did.

No Last Call

THE PROFESSOR

By Jim Price

Welcome to 2023! The symbolic turning of a new page into each New Year always seems to energize us, as we clean the slate from the past year and look forward to new possibilities. I see this happen with the area music scene each year as well, and am already aware of several exciting things awaiting area music fans in this New Year!

Holiday season-themed events comprised many of the shows I witnessed during 2022's homestretch, including two multi-band Toys for Tots benefit shows on back-to-back days in early December…I did a roadtrip to Bullfrog Brewery in Williamsport to witness the first one. Organized by Jeff Pittinger and presented by his Pennsylvania Pipeline Music-TV, this benefit featured six performing acts. The first two acts – Matthew Colgrove, and Kopper and Kash – performed before I arrived. I did arrive in time to see Williamsport's Celtic Wood and Wires as they did a blend of traditional Irish, Scottish and Celtic-flavored numbers. Singer and guitarist Michael J. Miller, Sandi Finnerty on fiddle, Billie Jo Shank on tin whistle and low whistle, and Carl Finnerty on bodhran offered bright, uplifting arrangements and musicianship as they did traditional numbers such as "Garryowen," a version of Steve Earle's "Galway Girl," a number from their album "Close the Back Door" and more. Next, the Betty Ford All Stars took the night in a harder-rocking direction. Jeff Pittinger on lead vocals, guest Gary Lynn (of Mason Dixon) and Jim Lovcik on guitars, Jason Miller and Carl E. Lee on basses, and Jesse Roedts on drums did a set of hard-rocking classics from Black Sabbath, Queen Blue Oyster Cult, Judas Priest and Thin Lizzy, with guest Joel B. Vincent sitting in on drums during ZZ Top's "Tush." Despite battling a cold, Jeff's vocal range held strong through the entire set, and the instrumental execution was solid and powerful. Following them was Williamsport's Gray Valley, who mixed elements of rock, funk, jazz and reggae into captivating jam exercises. The cast of guitarist and singer Clay Minier, bassist and singer Will Collier, Erick Parades on sax and hand percussion, Andrew Leidick on keys and Trey Foehner on drums did mostly original song creations that featured interesting rhythm and chord arrangements; their leadoff instrumental number led into a rendition of the Beatles' "Get Back." Finishing the benefit was The Heartstrings, a family group featuring siblings Jacob Yoas on guitar and vocals, Maria Yoas on bass and vocals, and drummer Brian Yoas. This group was strong and rowdy, delivering energy and swagger on their mix of hard-hitting rock and country. The three mixed strong original songs with edgy cover versions of Miranda Lambert's "Fastest Girl in Town" and Chris Isaak's "Wicked Game" to slam the lid on the night.

Jeff Pittinger of the Betty Ford All Stars

The following day, I checked out the second annual Toys for Tots benefit hosted by the Root Hovett Hall near Patton. Bad Luck Lover Boys kicked off the day before I arrived, and Electric Swamp was under way when I got there. Four members strong, Electric Swamp fired up the crowd with their unique blend of hard-driving country and rock. Among their songs was an amped-up version of "Deep Elem Blues." Baltimore foursome Paperback Tragedy followed with their brand of original power punk rock. Formed more than 20 years ago, the lineup of singer and guitarist Will West, bassist Frogg, guitarist and singer C-Lunch and drummer Clay powered through fast-firing, catchy numbers like "Deep Inside," "Divided," "Sh*t

Billie Jo Shank & Sandi Finnerty of Celtic Wood & Wires

continued on next page...

Jesse Roedts of the Betty Ford All Stars

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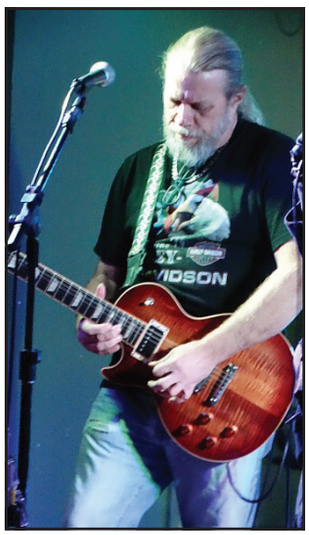
The Professor continued....

Town," "To The Bunker," "Gravel Gurdy," "Wishing Stars," their closer "Mr. Brown" and more. Next was Treaties, presenting their high-powered, punk-driven rock. Singer and guitarist Brandon Kane, bassist Brad Davis and drummer Toby Hunter fired through original numbers, including several off their self-titled album. Their combination of melody and velocity kept the all-ages crowd cheering. The Snipped then brought their "dadcore" punk rock to the stage. Singer and guitarist Mike Wax, lead guitarist Jeff Reid, bassist Frank Conrad and drummer Justin Burket drilled fast-firing numbers from both of their CD's, along with their high-octane

Gray Valley

take on The Kinks' "Father Christmas." The Snipped's "dadcore" inspired some "kidcore," as youngsters (and their parents) got crazy in front of the stage. With their rosters now identical with the recent return of drummer Damien Falatek, Negan and Alice In Chains tribute Deny Your Maker next combined for a joint set; mixing Negan original tunes with numbers from Alice In Chains and other covers. Damien, singer (plus venue owner and benefit organizer) Mike Davis, guitarists Bob Gray and Jeremy Ashurst, and bassist Josh Yahner broke out numbers from Clutch, Soundgarden, System Of A Down and Mastodon; Alice In Chains numbers such as "Red Giant," "Rain When I Die," "Bleed the Freak," "Love, Hate, Love" and "Man in the Box;" did three songs from Negan's "Burnt Pages" debut EP plus the newer "The Goat Whispers," which Mike dedicated to his brother Ray. Young Altoona punk-rocking trio Abstentious then brought the fury with their fast-firing, high-velocity, punk-rocking fun. They introduced numerous new tunes, plus a few established numbers off their "Without A Moral Compass" album such as "14 Weeks," "Thinking For You," "PCC" and more. Guitarist Brayden Adams and bassist Noah Keller sang and barked the vocals, while Jake Hicks pummeled the drums with blinding speed and all-out intensity – it looked like he had six arms at times! Pittsburgh's The Filthy Lowdown closed out the event with their rowdy, over-the-top set. With guitarists Brandon Habera and Max Snyder, bassist Chuck Kowalski and drummer Dave O'Brien churning the high-powered backdrops, frontman "Abe Like Lincoln" Balestra took his feral fury to the room, wrapping the mic cord around his head as he barked out the words to Filthy Lowdown anthems like "Mischief," "Cheap Cars, Fast Women," "308," some new originals, and several recitals of the under-one-minute "Get F***ed." An additional highlight was Abe welcoming up Noah from Abstentious to help bark out the words to Limp Bizkit's "Breakstuff." When all was said and done, this benefit raised at least $400 and more than 200 toys to help Toys for Tots help out area families in need during the holiday season.



Gary Lynn of the Betty Ford All Stars

Jim Lovcik of the Betty Ford All Stars

Throughout the past year, McGarvey's in Altoona has hosted several "Altoona Arts Untied" events; art-related showcases where local artisans and crafters display and sell their creations, usually accompanied by area acoustic performers. For the holiday

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The Professor continued....

season, the "Yuletide With Yinz" arts fair took place in early December. As various vendors offered their creations from candles to clothing to jewelry and more, members of Innocent Sin and the PennSoulvanians provided the music. Carli and Adam Caldwell of Clearfield's Innocent Sin performed a number of soul, folk and blues-geared original songs – including "I Wonder," "You Better Run" and "You Want to Know My Name" (about passing judgment). Joined by sax player Alec Zander Redd, Chet Denny and Michael Thomas of the PennSoulvanians then mixed several original songs with select covers. They did good-sounding renditions of Michael Jackson's "The Way You Make Me Feel," Prince's "When Doves Cry," Bob Dylan's "Knocking on Heaven's Door" and others, and were joined by Carli and Adam late in their set. Carli and Adam also hosted the "Caroling with the Caldwells Christmas Live" online streaming performance on Christmas Eve.

Both Krampus and St. Nicholas made their holiday season returns to Altoona's Unter Uns Musical & Entertainment Society last month, with Fortune & Glory providing the music. I arrived before the band's second set, and Krampus must have spotted me entering the building, as he arrived shortly after and swatted me with his branch for my misbehavior over the past year. He then danced in front of the stage as Fortune & Glory started their set with Ghost's "Square Hammer." St. Nicholas entered a few moments later to reward audience members with packets of candy and treats. The Fortune & Glory roster of singer Dana "DD" Martino, husband Art Martino (together 31 years) on guitar, son Nicholas Martino on bass, Adam Baranik on keys and Bryan Starr on drums kept the crowd rocking and dancing with a variety of favorites from Fleetwood Mac, CCR, Scandal, The Outfield, Led Zeppelin, Joe Walsh and more. They broke out songs not often heard on live stages such as Elton John's "I'm Still Standing," Deep Blue Something's "Breakfast at Tiffany's," Janis Joplin's "Move Over," The Police's "Synchronicity Pt. II" and others. Dana's voice handled all of it well, and the rest of the group sounded strong and together.

The Penn State Altoona University Jazz Band helped usher in the holiday season with their Fall Semester concert finale last month at the campus' Misciagna Family Center for Performing

Autumn Shiffler of Autumn Rising

TK Mundok of Black Cat Moan

Arts' Wolf-Kuhn Theatre. Under the direction of Josh Hillard and featuring special guest Bob Scholl (of U.S. Sound Theatre fame) on saxophone, the Jazz Band – sax players Justin Fleck, Seth Goheen, Noah Hillard, Tyler Latten and Alivia Lins; trumpeters Shayla Bowser, Austin Parker and Eric Jordan; trombonists Alexandria Hamel, JJ Steinbugl, Liam Walters and Michael Woolford; mellophone player Allison Snyder, guitarist Lorren McGarvey, pianist Jack Kuhns, bassist Nicholas Palermo and drummer Victor McCoy – played a tasty mix of Christmas and other selections. They opened with the Mike Collins-Dowden arrangement

Maria Yoas of The Heartstrings

of "Good King Wenceslas," and closed with the Paul Baker arrangement of "Rest Ye Merry Samba." In between, the band performed Jerome Kern and Oscar Hammerstein's "All The Things You Are" (from the musical "Very Warm for May"), Neal Hefti's "Cute" and Thelonius Monk's "Well You Needn't." The performances were sharp and enthusiastic, with each musician given the opportunity to demonstrate their solo talents along the way.

Many bands probably have that one special venue where everything always clicks – the room's crowd and atmosphere are electric, and fun nights are automatic. For Stormy, The Argonne Cafe in Hollidaysburg is that place. Every time I see Stormy there, it becomes a good time party; and amplified by the holiday season, their show last month at the Argonne was ecstatic from start to end! Singer and harmonica player Mark Montrella, singer Carol Fedeli, guitarist Brandon Stewart, keyboardist Charlie Leiden and drummer Ray Fedeli mixed a wide variety of rock and pop classics, Christmas favorites and more before a packed house. Stormy was bringing the Christmas cheer as I arrived, with Carol singing lead on versions of "Jingle Bell Rock," "Rockin'

Chet Denny

Around the Christmas Tree," and a Christmas medley of Jose Feliciano's "Feliz Navidad" into John Lennon's "Give Peace a Chance" and "We Wish You A Merry Christmas." The group also did numbers from Stealer's Wheel, Bruce Springsteen, Cream, Peter Green, Van Morrsion, Bruce Hornsby, Eddie Money… and some surprises such as renditions of Bread's "Make It With You," The Byrds' "My Back Pages," Nirvana's "All Apologies," the Moody Blues' "The Story in Your Eyes," and folks dancing on the Brandon-fronted take on Tom Waits' "Heart Attack and Vine." And as has become tradition with this band in this room, the group finished with crowd sing-along and dance-along versions of the Beatles' "Let It Be" and "Lady Madonna." Charlie then concluded the evening the same way he commenced it, with his piano solo version of Vince Guaraldi's "Christmas Time Is Here," and the crowd cheering full approval. Stormy returns to the Argonne Café on January 21. (And check out Argonne staffer Michelle's chalk artwork near the bar!

Black Cat Moan returned in late November to perform at the venue where their story began, Johnstown's Venue Of Merging Arts (VOMA). It was here that singer TK Mundok and guitarist George Byich first met and performed together; and this night felt like a homecoming, as a nearly full house greeted TK, George, bassist Brad Jamison and drummer Rob Bonsell. The group triggered instant dancing on the very first song, "Love Yourself," and kept the mood festive over two sets with their mixture of blues, blue-rock, soul and funk-edged original songs and select covers. TK's personality radiated as he led the group's journey with his expressive singing style, hopeful messages and appreciation for the audience; while George dazzled with stellar guitar work ranging from heated shredding to precision slide work; backed by the punchy rhythms and grooves generated by Brad and Rob. The group did songs from their original arsenal such as "I Am Love," "Wanna Get High (Sahasrara)," "Is What It Is," "Underground," "Anyday," "The Veil" and several new numbers as well. They also gave their own flavor to the blues standard "Rollin' and

The Professor continued....

Tumblin,'" Howlin' Wolf's "Smokestack Lightnin,'" "House of the Rising Sun," "Baby Please Don't Go" (with a Golden Earring "Radar Love" midsection), an impromptu audience request for Bill Withers' "Ain't No Sunshine," a Stevie Wonder "Superstition" extended jam and more. Black Cat Moan easily chased away the long-held stigma that blues is down and depressing music with their upbeat presentation this night.

Holiday season actually kicks off with Thanksgiving, and Shallow 9 helped usher in the holiday with their Thanksgiving Eve party before a packed house at Altoona's 4D's Lounge. Singer Erika Machiel, singer, guitarist and keyboardist Ryan Weaver, lead guitarist Greg Larrimore, bassist Mitch Neuder and drummer Todd Harshbarger had the packed house partying down with their blend of pop, rock, funk, soul, emo and hip-hop favorites. Witnessing from my vantage point this night "in the trenches" between the dance floor and the stage, it was fun witnessing the synergy between band and dance crowd unfold and grow as Shallow 9 did popular songs from Paula Abdul, Fall Out Boy, Panic! At The Disco, Radiohead, Cranberries, Hall & Oates, Lady Gaga, Killers, Charlie Puth and many others; plus emo, hip-hop, funk medleys and more. Shallow 9 again demonstrated that they know how to generate the party, and that party returns to the 4D's Lounge on Feb. 17.

Autumn Rising also knows how to fire up the party, as demonstrated during their visit to the 4D's Lounge last month. Rising from the ashes of the former This Albatross during the past year, Autumn Rising – singer Autumn Shiffler, guitarists and singers Scott Imler and Kirk Robison, bassist PJ Kelly and drummer Shawn Gioiosa – have energized dance floor crowds with their blend of classic and modern rock, pop and country favorites. Autumn's potent voice grabbed the crowd's full attention early on this night, and she and the band soon had the dance floor churning with numbers from Aerosmith, Joan Jett, Gretchen Wilson, Lenny Kravitz, Miranda Lambert, Blondie, Walk The Moon, Heart, Bruno Mars, Shania Twain, GoGos and many others. The momentum grew and the dance floor continued to fill up through the night, and by show's end the crowd demanded more – prompting two encores, as Autumn Rising closed the night with Janis Joplin's "Me and Bobby McGee" and Green Day's "When I Come Around." The rise of Autumn Rising should continue this year – watch for their return to the 4D's Lounge, as well as appearances throughout the region.

I caught my first look at Cambria/Somerset County rockers Twenty Three last month as they performed at the Windber Hotel. Formed in 2020, Twenty Three specializes in popular alternative and punk rock from the 1990s and 2000s. Singer Chelsea Ryan, guitarist and singer James Ryan, bassist and singer Dave Warren and new drummer Scott Rosage (of Private I fame) fired up the dance floor crowd with numbers from The White Stripes, Good Charlotte, All-American Rejects, Harvey Danger, Bowling for Soup, Third Eye Blind, Green Day, No Doubt, Alanis Morisette, Weezer and many more. The group's vocals were strong, and their instrumental execution was fast-paced and tight – all resulting in a busy dance floor, including a happy Class of 1987 reunion contingent in the house. Twenty Three is a rising name – watch for them on Cambria, Somerset and Westmoreland County stages.

Lancaster's Illusions Of Grandeur introduced their theatric-geared rock and stage show to McGarvey's early last month. I missed opening sets by The Nerves and The BS Express, but arrived in time to catch some of Illusions Of Grandeur's performance. The group presented fascinating audiovisual spectacle, mixing a progressive heavy rock/metal musical style with an imaginative array of costumes, setting, props and lighting. Singer "The Siren" (Maggie Carlton) and her "Warriors" – bassist "Archangel" (CM Carroll), drummer "Ares" (Ted Domzalski)

Erika Machiel and Ryan Weaver of Shallow 9

and guitarist "Dimios" (Julian Yeager) – through their songs craft a musical narrative of journeys, battles and mythology. Unfortunately, sound issues plagued and disrupted their full presentation this night; but what I was able to witness was intriguing, and the audience showed their appreciation and support for Illusions Of Grandeur's interesting musical world. Watch for this group's possible return to McGarvey's in late winter or early spring.

I did end up seeing The Nerves two weeks later at McGarvey's. This young band is quickly growing a fan base with their fresh and energetic brand of alternative rock originals and covers. Singer Ryen Beam, guitarists Julian Saborio and Joshua Redinger, bassist Adrian Saborio and drummer Braedon McCabe delivered strong melodies and go-for-broke energy on original songs such as "Green Fire" and "Little Boy," as well as their covers of material from Two Door Cinema Club, Arctic Monkeys, Wolfmother and more. The Nerves broke out a surprise to close this night by serving up their own chaotic edition of the Beatles' "Helter Skelter." The Nerves plan to do some recording this year and keep expanding their ban base; watch for their return to McGarvey's and other area stages.

The area music scene was saddened by the recent passings of two area musicians...Longtime Altoona area musician Jim High passed away on December 12 at age 65. Jim made music with a number of Blair County-based bands going back to the 1980s, primarily as a bass player and guitarist. Jim was a member of such groups as Psycho, Rainbow City (with Louie Brumbaugh), Sidewinder, Different Mothers, Not Them Guys and others… And longtime local country artist Bill Ross, Jr. passed away on December 23 at age 77. Bill was well-known as half of popular central PA-based country duo Bill & Roy, teaming with Roy Hanna, Jr. The pair played at venues, festivals and other public events around the area and region, opened for national acts, traveled and played shows from coast to coast and even performed in parts of Europe. They recorded in Nashville, issuing at least one 45 rpm single in 1989 and a full length CD called "Just 4 Fun" in 1991. Bill continued to perform as a solo artist after Roy passed in 2011.

News and notes…The green light has been given for the return of the annual "Crazy Fest" Amateur Youth Talent Show later this year. Started by area entertainer Dennie Huber in 1990, "Crazy Fest" enjoyed a 25-year run as a showcase for youngsters to demonstrate their performing talents in front of a friendly and supportive audience. That run ended after Dennie passed away in June, 2016. The new "Crazy Fest" will include a new award called "The Hubie" in Dennie's honor. More details about the date and location of "Crazy Fest" will be forthcoming…The next concert in Johnstown's "Classic Vinyl Concert Series" will take place March 18 at the State Theater of Johnstown, as a cast of area musicians will perform two albums: "Chicago IX" and "The Best of Earth, Wind, and Fire Vol. 1"…A changing of bass players for Johnstown punk-metal specialists The Heathen Parade, as Chad Straw replaces Jay Snider; The Heathen Parade will unveil new music on Jan. 13…Pittsburgh-based Altoona native Don Hughes has released two new albums; one is his newest original music album, called "Universal Language," which features seven original compositions and four remakes, and the other album, "The Gaming Jukebox," is a novelty release featuring Don's renditions of 28 different pieces of music from Nintendo video games… Jim Donovan & the Sun King Warriors have entered the studio to begin recording new music, which should be available later this year…And new Altoona-based metalcore project A Starlite Gray, featuring former members of Naildriver and This Calling, is nearing completion on the recording of their debut EP, "From Here to Eternity," which will be released soon.

Please send correspondence and recordings to: Jim Price, 1104 S. Catherine St., Altoona, PA 16602. You can also e-mail me at jptheprofessor@gmail.com. And if you're into social networking, look me up on Facebook. *SUPPORT LOCAL & LIVE MUSIC IN 2023!*

~All photos on pages 16 thru 19 by Jim Price~

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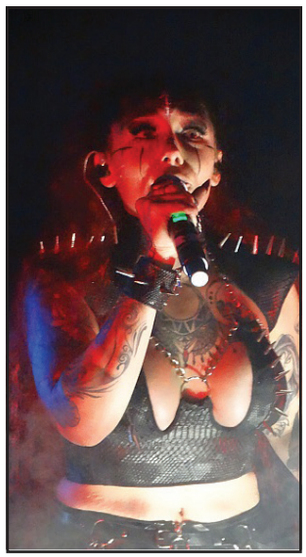
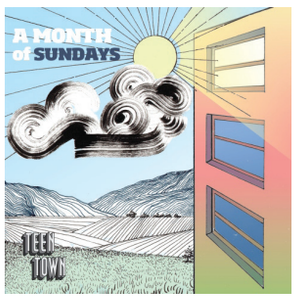


The Siren (Maggie Carlton) of Illusions of Grandeur

PA MUSICIAN REVIEWS

By Jim Price

TEEN TOWN – *A MONTH OF SUNDAYS* (no label) Since 2017, young Williamsport-based trio Teen Town – named after a popular 1970s jazz fusion number by Weather Report – has been spreading their adventurous brand of jazz fusion to audiences throughout central Pennsylvania and beyond; performing at numerous regional jazz festivals and showcase events, and opening shows for Sheila E., the Victor Wooten Trio, the Tierney Sutton Band and more. Their instrumental debut album, A Month of Sundays, introduces listeners to Teen Town's adventurous brand of music. Comprised of bassist Gabriel Severn, drummer Logan Bedard and keyboardist Connor Rohrer, Teen Town fearlessly explores improvisational jazz fusion frontiers over the album's eight tracks, as they mix flavors of smooth jazz, contemporary jazz, funk, rock, world rhythms and more. All three musicians display amazing skill on their respective instruments, fearlessly embarking on complex song arrangements, intricate chord and rhythm structures, shifting musical terrains and more. The album starts out upbeat with "Stand Buyers," which establishes a funk-driven melody that veers into a dreamy midsection where Gabriel tests the cosmos with his bass talents. Guest sax player Kyle Schroeder adds flavor to "Beyond Control," which evolves into an adventurous arrangement with various chord and tempo shifts and turns; eventually leading into a rowdy homestretch where Logan cuts loose on his drum kit. Conner's keys establish the initial melody on "Self Defense," before Gabriel and Logan take the tune into an adventurous rhythmic side journey. Establishing a milder tone, the title track "A Month of Sundays" sets a smooth melodic backdrop for several solo displays, including tasty guitar solo work from guest Joseph Yun. Gabriel's prominent creeping bass line anchors the interestingly-titled "Shower Plug," while Logan's busy rhythm sets the backdrop for more instrumental exploration on "Freedomland." Teen Town stretches out on the ambitious 10-minute excursion "Venture," before Connor's punchy piano theme sets the course for the album's finale, "Coda!" Teen Town's busy musicianship and creative arrangements keep this album interesting and moving from start to end, with all three musicians producing jaw-dropping flourishes along the way. Produced, mixed and mastered by George Graham and engineered by Richard Rupert at Green Valley Recording Studio in Hughesville, this album sparkles from start to finish, sounding clean, bright and balanced along the way. Jazz connoisseurs and newbies should find plenty to celebrate on A Month of Sundays, as Teen Town's dazzling talents carry the day and provide an exhilarating listening experience. (The digital album can be obtained through Teen Town's Bandcamp page, or through Gabriel Severn's website, www.gabrielsevern.com).



BURN THE MARTYR – *BLASPHEMY* (Monnster Records) Surfacing from the York area over the past four years, Burn The Martyr is establishing themselves as a capable modern heavy metal force, evidenced by their first full-length album, Blasphemy. Comprised of singer and guitarist Corey Burnard, bassist Kayden Monn, drummer Mark Koncki and guitarist Perry Monn; Burn The Martyr establishes a Black Sabbath and Pantera-rooted power metal sound over Blasphemy's ten tracks. Throttling, full-force rhythms, tenacious guitar riffs and solos, and Corey's vocal snarl define Burn The Martyr's musical turf, as the group crafts tough, concise and to-the-point songs. The group's songs explore the border lines between good and evil, absolution and damnation. The album-opener "Contrition" sets the table as a bold, barreling rocker about facing consequences for one's actions; followed by the dark and gloomy title track "Blasphemy," about the social tug-of-war between good and evil. Burn The Martyr warns against trespassers on the stern "Beware the Beast," as well as rising evil forces on "From Hell." Evil's control of the mind informs the words of the rumbling assault "The Hatred," while "Of Misery" analyzes pain and anguish. The brash "No More Heroes" offers social commentary about the troubling state of the nation, and the pounding album-closer "Sentenced to Suffer" dishes out punishment for evil deeds. Burn The Martyr's presentation is powerful and unrelenting; the group's wall of power metal thunder is steady and consistent, and Corey's coarse growl effectively sells the group's dark lyrical themes. Engineered, mixed and mastered by Perry Monn, Blasphemy sounds consistently rugged, balanced and full from start to end, and gives Burn The Martyr's attack full sharpness and edge. Blasphemy is a solid, strong full-length debut that establishes Burn The Martyr as a rising original metal force worthy of your attention. (The album can be accessed or obtained through online platforms.)

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